

ECLIPSE
COMICS

ALIEN WORLDS

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NO. 8

RECOMMENDED
FOR MATURE
READERS

TM



FOUND 104

Waiting for a name

CONTEST REMINDER: As this month's heading (borrowed from the old Jimmie Rodgers song "Waiting for a Train") reminds us, the person who comes up with the best name for this editorial column will win a six-issue subscription to the Eclipse Comic of his or her choice. Write your entry on a postcard and send it to "Name This Column" c/o Eclipse Comics, P.O. Box 199, Guerneville, California 95446.

NONE DARE CALL IT HYPE: Using the editorial page to hard sell our upcoming comics is not my idea of life, but for the second month in a row we have a lot of news about our take over of titles which were to be published by Pacific, before they suspended operations. For those who came in late, in October we announced (and shipped) *Rocketeer Special Edition* no. 1, *Groo Special* no. 1, *Presbutton* no. 1, *Berni Wrightson: Master of the Macabre* no. 5, *Strange Days* no. 1, and *Sequel & Shamus: Dusters* 1930s. Some of these are one-shots, and one is the final issue in a limited series, but *PRESSBUTTON* and *STRANGE DAYS* are continuing series. Look for *PRESSBUTTON* no. 2 in December and the second issue of *STRANGE DAYS* in January 1985.

Anyway, that's all recap — the NEW news is that Eclipse has picked up five MORE ex-Pacific titles, and they will be going on sale between now and January. Here they are:

SOMERSET HOLMES no. 5 and 6: With a movie production in the offing, it would have been dreadful to have left this mystery-thriller six-issue limited series in the lurch, so we are proudly stepping in to complete the run. **SOMERSET** is a tightly scripted cohesive whole, so if you're coming in late, you'd better go back and start with issue no. 1 before we publish the dramatic conclusion in November and December.

ALIEN WORLDS no. 8 and 9: John Bolton, Bruce Jones, Al Williamson, Jan Strand, Rand Holmes, William F. Nolan, Paul Rivoche, Ken Salsbury, Bo Hampton, Frank Brunner, David Carron, Jim Sullivan and John Pound combine their talents to bring you two incredible issues of fantastic science fiction, on sale in November and January.

TWISTED TALES no. 9 and 10: Berni Wrightson, Bruce Jones, Thom Enriquez, Jan Strand, Val Mayenek, Charles Wagner, Bill Wray, Dennis Etchison, Mike Hoffman, John Bolton, Gary Morrow, Alfonso Michelum, David Carron and John Pound are

the tale-twisters in this pair of issues, which will ship from the printer in November and December to bring you holiday cheer and fear.

SUN RUNNERS no. 4: Roger McKenney and Pat Broderick fans have been clamouring for the next issue of this far-flung science fiction adventure, and we're obliging. Look for issue no. 4 (including Paul Smith's "Mike Mahagony" back up) in late November.

MR. MONSTER: Michael T. (Eric) Gilbert and Bill (Journey) Loeb began this wonderful mystic-pulp occult-hero series for Pacific, but the first installment was dreadfully botched in the colour separations (yellow turned magenta, purples were brown) and the second and third episodes never appeared at all. We are collecting the entire story into a 32-page one shot, with all-new colour sep on the first chapter. **Mr. Monster** will ship in January 1985.

LEST WE FORGET: In the mad scramble to ready the above eleven ex-Pacific books for publication — and the need to tell you about 'em all so you can know what to expect in the near future — I feel like I'm short-changing all of our regular titles, so even though I have to spend a whole page on hype, I just want to remind you that the first issue of B.C. Boyer's **MASKED MAN** is scheduled for release in December. We have a new colourist on this series now. His name is Ron Courtney, and we think he's terrific.

Scott McCloud has fallen a little behind on his **ZOT!** writing and drawing schedule due to a stay in the hospital, where he had to have his appendix removed. He's fine now, but he was out of commission long enough to cause some delays in no. 7, and those will carry on through to no. 8.

And of course, **Cronfille**, **DNAgent**, **Artec Ace**, **Sabre**, **Night Music**, and all our other fine comic books will be coming your way as usual, full of the same high level of art and story you've come to expect from Eclipse.

By the way, if you are really the kind who likes to keep up to date on coming comics, you should check out the new, comic book-size colour **ECLIPSE EXTRA**. If it's not to be found in your local comics shop, ask your dealer to order it from his or her distributor. It's monthly — and it's free.

catherine yronwode

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WILLIAM F. NOLAN'S ...AND MILES TO GO BEFORE I SLEEP

Entry logbook,
starship 12 January
29, 2022. Proceeding
on schedule. Standby
89-JR. Anticipated
Earth touchdown:
December 31, 2022.
All is well...



YOU ARE TIRED, CAPTAIN MURDOCK. YOU SHOULD REST.

REST? ON THE LAST DAY OF MY LIFE? I WANT TO SAVOR EVERY MINUTE LEFT TO ME!

YOU KNOW, WHEN I WAS A KID, ALL I WANTED WAS TO BE A SPACEMAN! I COULD HARDLY WAIT TO GET OUT HERE! MY FRIEND JACK MORGAN AND I WOULD WALK OUT TO THE ROCKPORT AND WATCH THE BIG PASSENGER SHIPS COME DOWN FROM THE MOON...











SOFT BOILED

YEAH, YEAH, I'D HEARD IT ALL BEFORE--
SEEN IT ALL BEFORE--IN EVERY DIME
NOVEL PULP OF MY YOUTH, IN EVERY
BOGART FILM NOIR WARNERS EVER
CRANKED OUT, BUT SOMEHOW... SOMEHOW
THIS ONE LOOKED DIFFERENT... JUST A
SHADE OFF-CENTER... A TAD OFF-BALANCE...
OH, THE SETTING WAS PERFECT, WHAT WITH
THE RED NEON WINKING THROUGH THE
VENETIANS AND MY OLD ROYAL UPRIGHT
TAK-TAKING AWAY UNDER MY FINGERS
AND THE BOTTLE OF JACK DANIELS AT MY
ELBOW AND THE .38 SNUB OVER MY HEART...
PERFECT, SURE.

BUT THE DAME, THE DAME... I MEAN, THE
LUSTROUS FLAXEN CURLS WERE THERE, THE
HIGH-GLOSS LIPSTICK, THE GLOW-IN-THE-FIGURE,
YEAH, SURE... BUT SOMETHING WAS MISSING...
OR WAS IT THAT SOMETHING HAD BEEN ADDED?

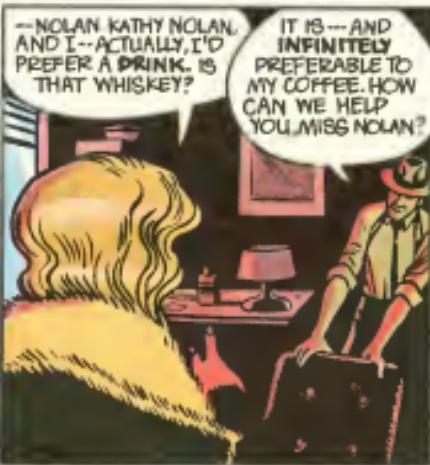


STORY: BRUCE JONES

ART: PAUL RIVOCHÉ



IF IT WERE TOO LATE, HONEY, I WOULDN'T BE A PRIVATE DICK. WOULD YOU LIKE SOME COFFEE, MISS--?



IT IS--AND INFINITELY PREFERABLE TO MY COFFEE. HOW CAN WE HELP YOU, MISS NOLAN?



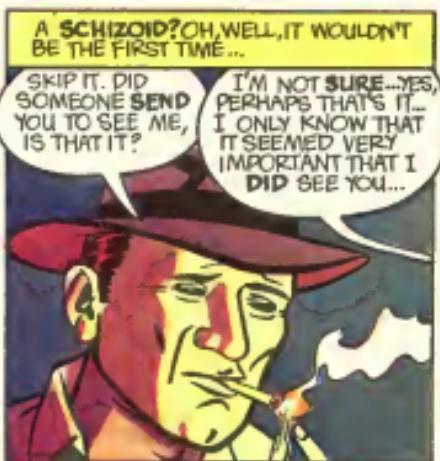
I--I'M NOT SURE. I--THIS IS GOING TO SOUND CRAZY...

I'VE HEARD IT ALL, MISS NOLAN, BELIEVE ME!



WAIT A SECOND. YOU SAID YOUR NAME WAS KATHY' NOLAN...

"KATHY"? MY NAME IS JUNE...



I'M NOT SURE...YES, PERHAPS THAT'S IT... I ONLY KNOW THAT IT SEEMED VERY IMPORTANT THAT I DID SEE YOU...



JESUS!

NOW, THAT WAS A TWIST! I EITHER HAD A GENUINE PSYCHO ON MY HANDS, OR A VERY, VERY MIXED-UP KID...

UH... LET'S BACK UP A MINUTE HERE, HONEY. WE'LL WORRY ABOUT THE BILL LATER--RIGHT NOW LET'S FIND OUT WHAT KIND OF TROUBLE YOU'RE IN.



SOMEONE IS TRYING TO BAKE ME. I'VE BEEN THREATENED...

'BAKE' YOU?

WHAT?

'YOU SAID, 'BAKE ME'...

KILL ME. SOMEONE IS TRYING TO KILL ME. HERE, LOOK...



...THIS IS A GROCERY LIST...

I KNOW.
YOU KNOW?

I LEFT THE THREAT NOTE AT HOME BY MISTAKE. BUT IT WAS TERRIBLE! YOU SHOULD HAVE READ IT!



AHEM... MISS NOLAN... IT IS MISS NOLAN?

YES.

HAVE YOU BEEN GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP LATELY?



VERY WELL. IF YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED IN HANDLING THE CASE--

WAIT A SECOND! I DIDN'T SAY THAT! LOOK, UH, THIS NOTE, WAS IT SIGNED BY CHANCE?



THE NOTE, THE NOTE! JUST KISS ME, YOU BASTARD!

MPH!



CHRIST! HIT IT!



I'D NEVER SEEN SPIVEY SO NERVOUS... IT WAS CERTAINLY A WEIRD NIGHT ALL AROUND. I HEADED BACK TO THE OFFICE AND TICKLED THE KEYS FOR A WHILE...



BANNER HERE... MR. BANNER? IT'S DOROTHY NOLAN. LISTEN, I JUST GOT A NEW THREAT NOTE, IT READS...



WHATEVER. THE NOTE READS: MEET ME AT THE EAST PIER AT 2 A.M... SIGNED, THE RAT.

DOESN'T SOUND ESPECIALLY THREATENING...



I TOLD THE DAME TO LAY LOW AND LAMMED IT OVER TO THE 39th STREET PIER. THE NIGHT STILL HAD A FEW SURPRISES LEFT...



OH, EVENING, MR. BANNER, YOU STILL UP?

SPIVEY, WHAT THE HELL'S GOIN' ON HERE? YOU'RE A CABBY, NOT A STEVEDORE...



DIDN'T... DIDN'T SID TALK TO YOU YET, MR. BANNER? DIDN'T HE FILL YOU IN?

SID? SID WHO? AND QUIT CALLIN' ME MR. BANNER!

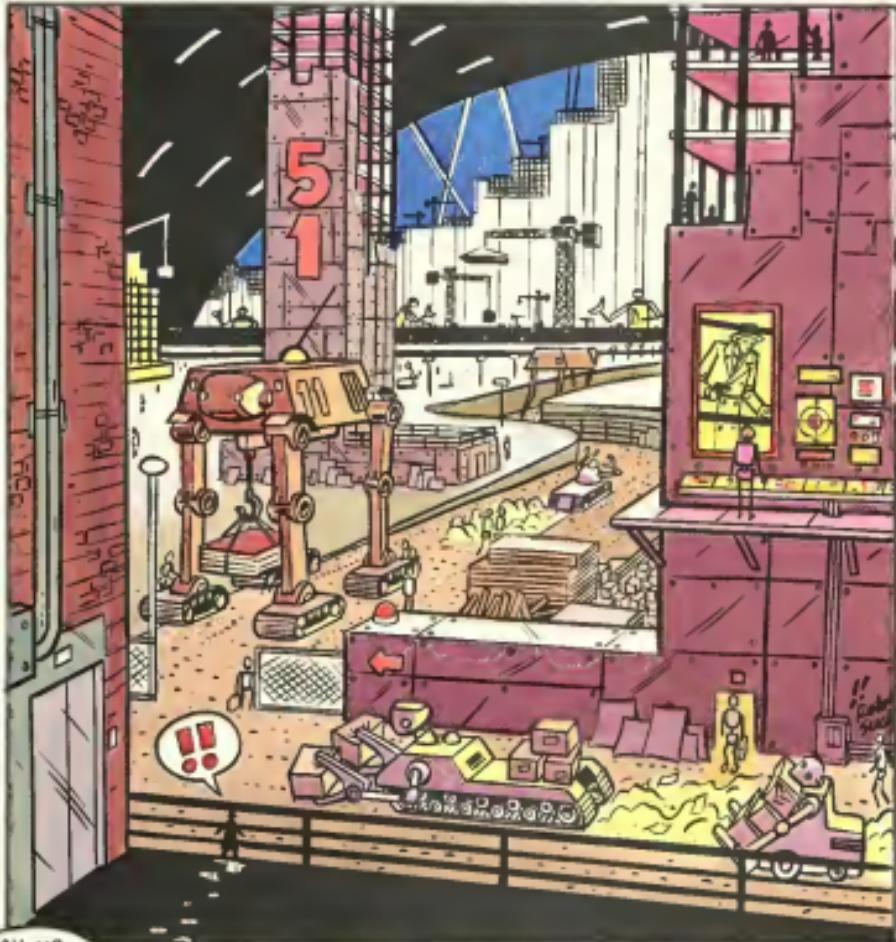


THAT'S WHEN I SPOTTED THE GUY IN THE YELLOW SLICKER FOR THE FIRST TIME...

HEY! HEY YOU! WAIT UP!





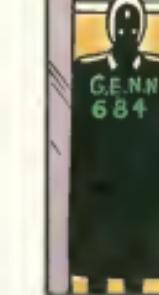


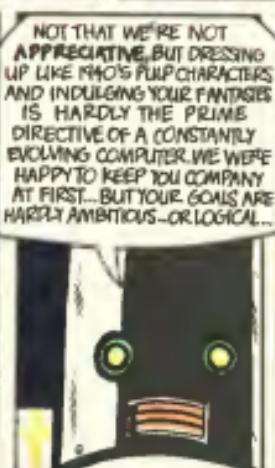
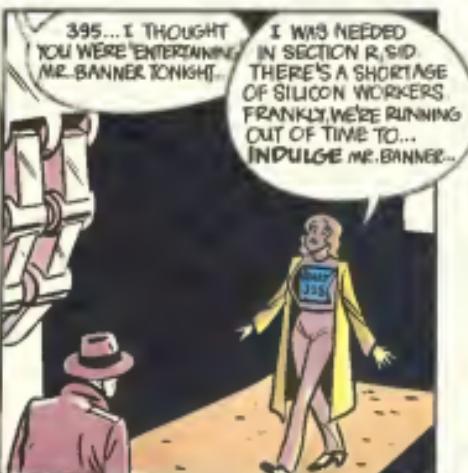
AH, MR.
BANNER! CUT
RATHER LATE
TONIGHT, AREN
WE, SIR?

ME OUT LATE! ME OUT
LATE! YOU GUYS AREN'T
SUPPOSED TO BE DOWN
HERE! WHAT THE HELL
GOES ON HERE, ANYWAY?
I NEVER TYPED ORDERS
FOR ALL THIS!

NO, I'M AFRAID
WE TOOK THIS UPON
OURSELVES,
MR. BANNER...

TRouble, Genn?
AH, MR. BANNER!
CUT RATHER LATE,
AREN'T WE?





SO WHAT NOW?
WHAT DO YOU DO
WHEN AN OLD DOG HAS
OUTLIVED HIS DAYS?

UNDER THE
CIRCUMSTANCES, I'M
AFRAID THERE'S VERY
LITTLE CHOICE...

WAIT! I... IF I MAY...
I HAVE A SUGGESTION...
SOMETHING THAT MIGHT
MAKE MR. BANNER
MORE COMFORTABLE...



IT WAS A DIRTY NIGHT... RAIN
MIXED WITH SLEET AND ME ALL
ALONE WITH A MOUNTAIN OF
PAPERWORK AND ONLY TWO
FINGERS OF JACK DANIELS
LEFT IN THE BOTTLE...

EXCUSE ME...
MR. BANNER?
ACE BANNER?

COME
RIGHT IN...
THE DOOR'S
OPEN...

I'D SEEN THE TYPE BEFORE...
FLAKEN CURLS, HIGH-GLOSS
LIPSTICK, GRAB-ME FIGURE...
BUT SOMETHING ABOUT HER
TOLD ME THIS NIGHT WAS
GOING TO BE DIFFERENT...



THEY'RE AFTER YOU,
MR. BANNER! THEY
MEAN TO KILL YOU!



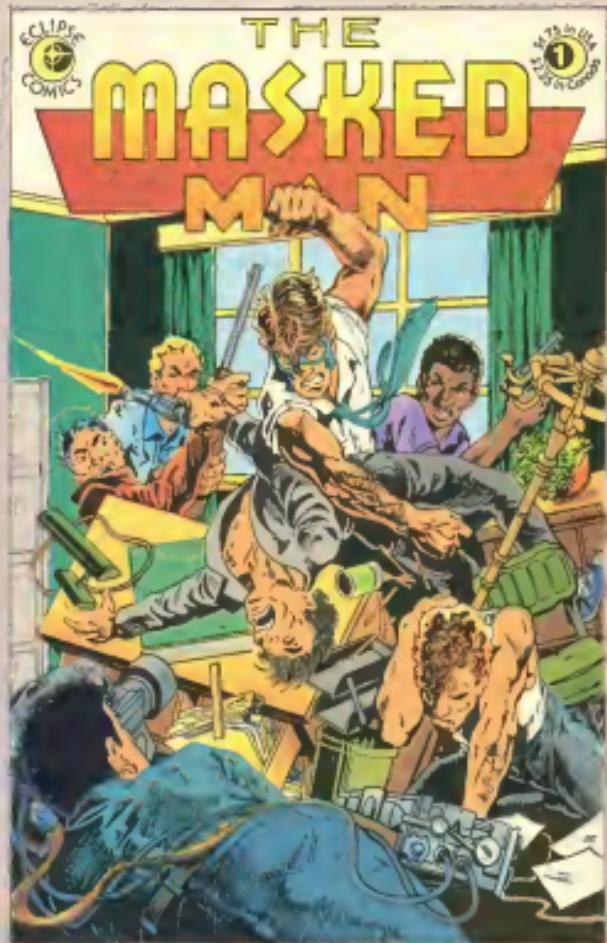
I'VE
BEEN FEELIN'
THIS ONE COMIN' FOR
A LONG TIME, DOLL!
WELL, MAYBE I CAN
TAKE A FEW OF
THEM WITH ME!

THEY'RE
HERE!
YEAH... HOW
BOUT A GOOD-BYE
KISS, DOLL, FOR OLD
TIMES' SAKE? WHAD
YOU SAY YOUR
NAME WAS?

KNOCK!
KNOCK!



THE BOOK YOU DEMANDED WE PUBLISH



*First issue on sale in December
from Eclipse (of course)*

Collector's Item

FOTCH'S CONFECTIONS

LAST ONE INSIDE
IS A MARTIAN
CANAL-HOPPER!

THERE AIN'T NO
CANALS ON
MARS, KENNY!

I KNOW THAT, DOPEY!

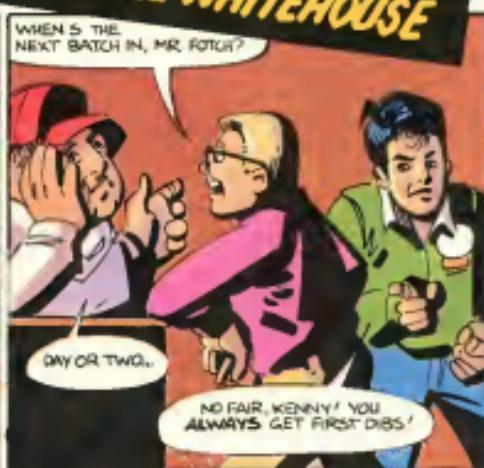
KEN STEACY

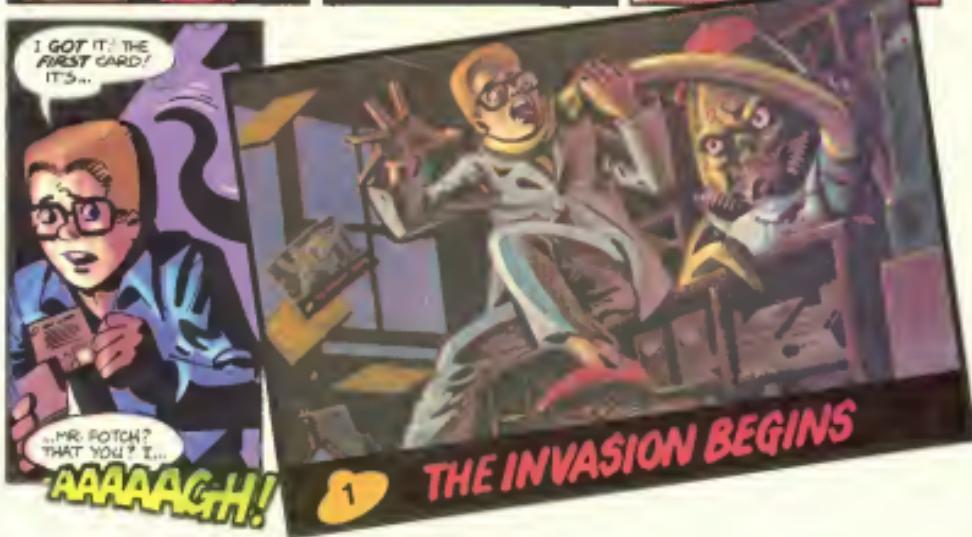
ANY NEW GUM CARDS
TODAY MR. FOTCH?

NO FAIR,
KENNY, YOU
CAN RUN
FASTER!









TWICE UPON A TIME, IT TOOK TIME
TO MAKE A HERO...

AND IN THE TIME YOU JUST TOOK
TO BLINK, HE CRASHED EVERY
MOMENT OF INFINITY, MAKING
THE PAST SAFE FROM THE FUTURE.

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STONEY END

WE'VE CAPTURED THE SPY, SIR, THE ONE WHO SABOTAGED THE SHIP!

BRING HIM HERE! I WANT TO SEE THE FACE OF THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR CRASHLANDING US ON THIS UNKNOWN PLANET!

YOU! BUT I TRUSTED YOU, DAAKOS, ABOVE ALL OTHERS.

YOU WERE MEANT TO TRUST ME CAPTAIN. IT WAS MY ASSIGNMENT TO WIN YOUR TRUST!

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE A TRAITOR! YOU WERE ONE OF MY BEST MEN!

IT IS EASY TO EXCEL AMONG POOLS!

YOU KNOW THE PENALTY FOR SPYING...!

YOU'RE TOO LATE, CAPTAIN! THE POISON MY COUNTRY PROVIDES ITS SPIES WORKS VERY QUICKLY...







THIS IS DONALDSON, SIR. WE FOUND HIM IN THE PARTS ROOM... SOBBING.

DONALDSON'S IN CHARGE OF THE METEOR SHIELDS. NEAR AS WE CAN FIGURE, HE'S BEEN ON HALLUCINOGENS FOR THE LAST SEVENTY-TWO HOURS.

SO YOU'RE THE BASTARD RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS MESS!

I PUT DOWN MY COPY OF WONDERFUL PLANET STORIES AND LOOKED AT THE SORRY PIECE OF MEAT NAMED 'DONALDSON.'

I KNEW HE'D TRY TO WEASEL OUT OF IT. I'D CITED HIM FOR DERELICTION OF DUTY BEFORE. HE WAS ON DOUBLE PROBATION ALREADY. I'D BEEN A FOOL TO TRUST HIM.

IT'S NOT MY FAULT, SIR! THE SHIELDS WERE ON "AUTOMATIC"—IF THE COMPUTER HADN'T GONE DOWN!

SAVE YOUR STINKING EXCUSES: IT IS YOUR FAULT WE'RE STUCK ON THIS MUDHOLE! YOUR LITTLE DRUG CRISYS CONDEMNED THIRTY MEN TO DEATH!

BUT I DIDN'T MEAN IT, SIR. I DON'T KNOW THIS WOULD HAPPEN!

CREWMAN DONALDSON, I ORDER YOU CONFINED TO QUARTERS FOR TWO HOURS.

NO! NO! I'LL DIE IF YOU LOCK ME UP!

NO! I'LL DIE! IT ISN'T FAIR! ISN'T FAIR!

IS HE RIGHT, BIGGERS? IS TWO HOURS A DEATH SENTENCE?

EASILY. BEST ESTIMATES HAVE IT—LESS THAN AN HOUR UNTIL THE WORMS BREAK THROUGH THE HULL. THEN... WELL STONEWALL'S BRINGING THE FULL REPORT.

IF WE COULD BOTTLE THAT ACID OF THEIRS
AND SELL IT BACK ON EARTH, WE'D MAKE A
FORTUNE. I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT.

AND THE GENERATOR'S
GONE FOR GOOD? NO HOPE
OF REPAIRING IT?

NONE. WE
BURNED IT
OUT TRYING
TO ELECTRIFY
THE HULL.

THAT WAS WHEN STONEY MADE HIS BIG
ENTRANCE. IT'S FUNNY WHAT A KNOWLEDGE OF
CERTAIN DBATH WILL BRING OUT IN A PERSON. IN
STONEY'S CASE, I WASN'T TOO SURPRISED...

WOO-HOO!
WOULD YOU LOOK
AT THAT!
HOT-CHA-CHA!

GOT THAT REPORT
FOR US, STONEY?

REPORT: MIDSHIPMAN FRANKLIN "STONEY"
STONEWALL HAS ABANDONED THE SAFETY OF HIS
CLOSET TO CONFRONT DEATH WOMAN-TO-WOMAN.
"IF I MUST DIE," HE...EXCUSE ME...SHE
SAYS, "LET IT BE WITH DIGNITY!"



AND WHAT ABOUT THE ATMOSPHERE, STONEY?
CAN WE BREATHE OUT THERE?



NOT UNLESS YOU
WERE RAISED ON
FLUORINE GAS, CAPTAIN,
AS SOON AS THAT
STUFF STARTS SEEPING
THROUGH, WE ALL
BITE THE BIG ONE.

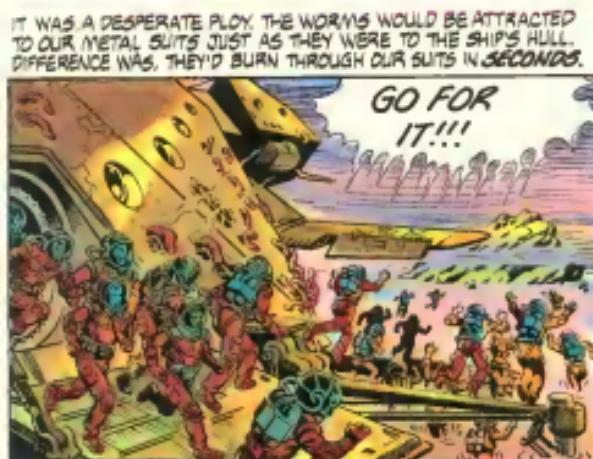
MIGHT AS WELL SEE HOW NISHIMURA'S DOING
WITH THE ENGINE. YOU NEVER KNOW...MAYBE
WE'LL GET A BREAK.

JESUS, STONEY-SAYS ONE
THING, BUT DID YOU HAVE
TO GO FAUCY PAIN-
CESS ON US?

SEXIST.

ENGINE CASING'S SHOT--NEED A NEW ONE. HAD
TO DUMP THE FUEL BEFORE WE CRASHED OR
BLOW OURSELVES UP. CONTROL SYSTEM'S OUT--
CAN'T JERRY-RIG MICROCHIPS, CAPTAIN. ANY OTHER
DUMB QUESTIONS? YOU'RE PUTTING ME OFF MY GAME.









HALF AN HOUR.



SUDDENLY I REMEMBERED WONDERFUL PLANET STORIES. I HADN'T HAD A CHANCE TO FINISH IT. I PULLED IT OUT OF MY SUIT POCKET.



YOU MET HIM FIRST IN THE PAGES OF

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NOW, HE'S OUT ON HIS OWN... BATTLING THE MOST
INCREDIBLE FOES IN THE MOST UNBELIEVABLE WORLD
EVER SEEN IN A COMIC BOOK: THE REALITY OF
HOLLYWOOD (WHAT LITTLE THERE IS). YOU'VE
NEVER READ ANYTHING QUITE LIKE IT; THERE'S
NEVER BEEN A HERO QUITE LIKE...

CROSSFIRE™

by MARK EVANIER and DAN SPIEGLE
CREATED BY MARK EVANIER AND WILL MEUGNOT



SO DON'T BELIEVE ME!!

I DON'T CARE, THEY EXIST!!! (THEY DO!) AND THEY WAIT (OH YES.)

THEY WAIT,

IN THE DARK, TO SUCK
THE MARROW FROM
YOUR BONES, TO
SCOOP THE SOFT
TASTY PARTS
FROM YOUR
SKULL!
(FOR DESSERT!)

AND THEY'RE
COMING,
BROTHER!
THEY'RE COMING...

FOR
YOU!!

AND ONLY ONE
MAN CAN STOP
THEM...

DOC STEARN...

MICHAEL T.
Gilbert & William F. Loeb

THE MARROW MONSTER

by Michael T. Gilbert & William F. Loeb



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John Law, Detective

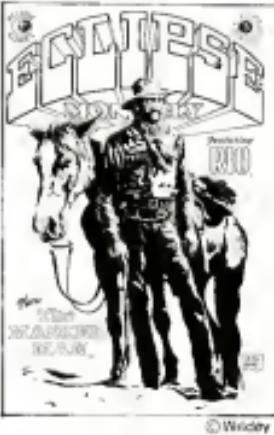
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Zot!

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PRESSBUTTON #1

By Pedro Henry and Steve Dillon.
Back-up and cover by Brian Bolland.





YES, THAT
WAS QUITE A DEED.
JOJO SHARING
THIS BOOK LIKE
HE DID!